

Message Text

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21

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INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 1759

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJ: ELECTION DEVELOPMENTS

REF: A) BANGKOK 1553; B) BANGKOK 1429

SUMMARY. PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT CONFIRMS REPORTS THAI NATION AND SOCIAL ACTION PARTY TO COOPERATE IN UPCOMING ELECTION CAMPAIGN. BUNLOET LOETPRICHA, FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF SOCIAL JUSTICE PARTY STATES HE MAY FORM NEW PARTY. NEW LABOR PARTY LEGITIMIZED BY MEMBERSHIP OF LABOR LEADER. CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN, FOREIGN MINISTER AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE THAI NATION PARTY, WILL RUN IN APRIL 4 ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. AT HIS JANUARY 26 PRESS CONFERENCE, PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT CONFIRMED REPORTS THAT THE THAI NATION (TN) AND THE SOCIAL ACTION (SAP) PARTIES WILL COOPERATE DURING THE UPCOMING ELECTION CAMPAIGN. A JOINT MEETING OF THE TWO PARTIES WILL BE HELD SOON, BUT THE DATE HAS NOT YET BEEN FIXED. KHUKRIT DISCOUNTED OTHER REPORTS THAT THE SOCIAL JUSTICE PARTY WOULD ALSO COOPERATE WITH THE TN AND SAP IN THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS. ACORDING TO KHUKRIT, THE TWO PARTIES WILL FIELD WHAT IN EFFECT WILL BE A JOINT SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR EACH CONSTITUENT.

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FECTION WILL BE A JOINT SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR EACH CONSTITUENT.

TUENCY, WITH ONLY THE STRONGEST ALLOWED TO RUN. IN ANY CONSTITUENCY WHERE THE CONTEST IS EXPECTED TO BE CLOSE, THE CANDIDATES OF THE TWO PARTIES WOULD HELP ONE ANOTHER. IN CONSTITUENCIES WHERE CANDIDATES OF BOTH PARTIES ARE WEAK, NEITHER PARTY WOULD RUN CANDIDATES. ONE REASON FOR THIS JOINT COOPERATION WAS TO SAVE MONEY.

2. BUNLOET LOETPRICHA, DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER AND FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE PARTY (SJP), SEEMS TO BE ANOTHER MAN IN SEARCH OF A PARTY. AS REPORTED IN REF A, BUNLOET TOLD REPORTERS AT THE TIME OF HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE SJP THAT HE HAD JOINED THE SAP. THAT ANNOUNCEMENT HAS NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED BY SAP. A THAI BUSINESSMAN TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER ON JANUARY 26 THAT BUNLOET WAS THINKING OF FORMING A NEW POLITICAL PARTY. THE JANUARY 27 "NATION" REPORTED THAT BUNLOET, IN COLLABORATION WITH PRIDA PATTHANATHABUT, MINISTER ATTACHED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MEMBER OF THE PEACEFUL PEOPLE'S PARTY, WOULD FORM THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY,

3. THE NEW LABOR PARTY (NLP) NOW HAS A MORE LEGITIMATE CLAIM TO ITS NAME. ACCORDING TO THE "NATION" OF JANUARY 25, DR. MORAKOT WANNAWONG, ONE OF THE TWENTY-TWO COUNCILLORS OF THE CONFEDERATION OF LABOR UNIONS OF THAILAND (CLUT), QUIT THE FEDERATION AND JOINED THE NLP. MORAKOT IS LEADER OF THE METROPOLITAN TEACHERS' UNION. THE EMBASSY LABOR OFFICER MAINTAINS THAT MORAKOT'S INTENTION TO RUN DOES NOT REPEAT NOT INDICATE ANY MASS RUSH ON THE PART OF THE LABOR LEADERS TO RUN FOR OFFICE. HE KNOWS OF ONLY ONE OTHER LABOR LEADER WHO WILL RUN ON APRIL 4. (REF B.)

4. IN THE SAME ARTICLE, PHAISAN THAWATCHAINAN, PRESIDENT OF CLUT, WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE HAD INSTRUCTED HIS MEN TO TAKE BRIBES FROM ALL POLITICIANS OR THEIR CANVASSERS BUT NEVER TO VOTE FOR THEM. "I WANT TO TEACH THOSE UNSCRUPULOUS POLITICIANS A LESSON THAT THEIR DIRTY MONEY CANNOT BUY OUR SUPPORT."

5. FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN, SECRETARY
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GENERAL OF THE THAI NATION PARTY, APPARENTLY HAS CHANGED HIS MIND AND WILL RUN IN THE APRIL 4 GENERAL ELECTIONS IN HIS OLD CONSTITUENCY IN KORAT. A PARTY SPOKESMAN HAD CLAIMED ON JANUARY 22 THAT CHATCHAI WOULD NOT RUN, A CLAIM WHICH THEN MET WITH WIDESPREAD SKEPTICISM. (SEE REF B).
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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